

SUMMARY OF ACTIONS
Judicial Council Meeting
June 19, 1998, San Francisco

The Judicial Council took the following actions at its June 19 meeting:

Decentralized Trial Court Management

- Adopted a recommendation by the Administrative Office of the Courts (AOC) staff to implement a comprehensive series of court rules that establish a decentralized system of trial court management in California, as mandated by the Lockyer-Isenberg Trial Court Funding Act of 1997. The five new rules cover general principles of trial court management, trial court personnel plans, trial court budget management, and the role of the Judicial Council and the AOC in managing the judicial branch budget. These rules will be incorporated into a new Title VI of the California Rules of Court governing judicial administration. Existing rules on judicial administration will be reorganized and incorporated into the new title, and new rules will be drafted on other topics, such as facilities management and information systems.

Trial Court Coordination

Based on recommendations by the Trial Court Coordination Advisory Committee, the council took the following actions:

- Approved eligibility for pay parity for the municipal court judges of three counties on the dates indicated: Tehama County (April 1, 1998), El Dorado County (May 1, 1998), and Monterey County (June 1, 1998).
- Approved amendments to the overall assessments of coordination implementation for the trial courts in Alameda, Alpine, Amador, Calaveras, Contra Costa, El Dorado, Monterey, and Tehama Counties.
- Retained the requirement of a single presiding judge in countywide trial court systems as a criterion for the overall assessment of “fully coordinated.” In addition, the council voted that the criteria for the overall assessment of “fully coordinated” may include the use of an oversight committee in the two alternatively structured counties (Los Angeles and San Diego) with duties and voting procedures as defined by council policy.
- Relieved trial courts in counties that have been certified by the Judicial Council as unified of any future obligation to submit trial court coordination plans, coordination progress reports, or coordination progress assessment information to the Judicial Council Trial Court Coordination Advisory Committee.

(over)

Judicial Branch Statistical Information Systems Manual

- Adopted the *Judicial Branch Statistical Information Systems Manual* to provide California courts with comprehensive case-related information standards to support policy and management decisions.

Statewide Community-Focused Court Planning Conference

- Received an update about the success of the nation's first Statewide Community-Focused Court Planning Conference titled *Leading Justice Into the Future*. More than 450 participants attended the two-day conference in Long Beach in May. The conference was sponsored by the Judicial Council and a grant from the State Justice Institute.

RULES AND FORMS CHANGES

Based on recommendations by the Civil and Small Claims Advisory Committee, the council took the following actions:

Exemption From Blue-Back Requirement for Los Angeles

- Voted to extend the repeal date of rule 302.5 to January 1, 1999, to permit the Los Angeles County Superior Court to continue to enforce its blue-back requirement for attorney-filed documents during the effective period of the rule.

Civil and Small Claims

- Amended rule 342, relating to motions for summary judgment and summary adjudication, to correct technical defects in the rule.

Small Claims

- Amended form SC-134 to change its title to *Application and Order to Produce Statement of Assets and to Appear for Examination* to clarify that the form does not supersede form EJ-125, *Application and Order for Appearance and Examination*, and to make several other amendments.